

# California GARDEN

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 1996

Volume 87 No. 1

\$1.50



# HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR

**JAN. 2**

★**SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION** Bus Tour. View Rose Parade Floats, Pasadena. RSVP 232-5762. \$38 includes lunch.

**JAN. 6**

**SAN DIEGO ROSE SOCIETY** Rose Pruning. Inez Grant Parker Memorial Rose Garden, Park Blvd., Balboa Park. Sat. 9AM to noon. Hands-on demonstration. Bring gloves and pruners.

**JAN. 20-21**

**SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY** Mini Show & Plant Sale. Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Sat. 11AM-4:30PM.; Sun. 10AM-4PM. Free.

**FEB 3-4**

**SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY** 49th Annual Show. Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Sat. 1-4PM.; Sun. 10AM-4PM. Free.

**FEB. 6**

★**SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION** Appalachian Basketry. Casa del Prado, Rm 104, Balboa Park. Materials provided. Tues. 9:30AM-2:30PM. Call 232-5762 or 298-5182. \$15.

**FEB. 13**

★**SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION** New Style 3 Ring Basket. Casa del Prado, Rm 104, Balboa Park. Materials provided. Tues. 9:30AM-2:30pm. Call 232-5762 or 298-5182. \$20.

**FEB. 17-18**

**SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY** Mini Show & Sale. Casa del Prado, Rm 101, Balboa Park. Sat. Noon-4PM; Sun. 10AM-4PM.

**FEB. 20**

★**SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION** Basketry 101. Casa del Prado, Rm 104, Balboa Park. Finish or refurbish your basket. Tues. 9:30AM-2:30PM. Call 232-5762 - 298-5182. \$5.

**FEB. 20**

★**SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION** Quarterly Dinner Meeting & Program. Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Paul Anderson, LA Arboretum "Gardens In So. Calif. That I Like" RSVP by 16th please. 232-5762. \$5 & \$6.

**FEB. 24-25**

**DESCANSO GARDENS** Camellia Show. 1418 Descanso Dr., La Canada Flintridge. Sat. & Sun. 9AM-5PM. Call 818/952-4401. \$5.

**FEB. 27**

★**SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION** Random-Weave Fern Basket. Casa del Prado, Rm 104, Balboa Park. Materials provided. Tues. 9:30AM-2:30PM. Call 232-5762 - 298-5182. \$15.

**FEB. 27**

★**SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION** Bus Tour. Descanso Gardens Camellia Display. Nuccio's Nursery, Camellia Growers. RSVP 232-5762. \$43 includes lunch.

**Weekly**

**SAN DIEGO JAPANESE FRIENDSHIP GARDEN** Docent Tours Balboa Park by Organ Pavilion. Tues., Fri., Sat., Sun. 10AM-4PM. Gate donation. Free entrance 3rd. Tues.

**Every Saturday**

**OFFSHOOT TOURS** One-Hour Plant Walks in Balboa Park. Meet 10AM. Botanical Lath House. Canceled if rain or less than 4 attendees. 1st Sat. History Walk; 2nd Sat. Palm Walk; 3rd Sat. Tree Walk; 4th Sat. Desert Walk; 5th Sat. Tour del Dia.

**Every Tuesday**

**BALBOA PARK INTERPRETIVE WALKS** Ranger guided tours of Botanical History of Park. Meet Balboa Park Visitor Center, Plaza de Panama. 10AM. Call 619/235-1121. Free.

**JAN. 8 & FEB 8**

**SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY** Speaker. Mon. 6:30-9PM. Satellite Wagering Facility, Del Mar Racetrack. Call 630-7307.

**JAN. 8 thru MAY 96**

**PALOMAR DISTRICT DESIGN FORUM** Floral Design Programs. Mon. 1-3PM. Rancho Bernardo. Call 749-1920. Fee.

**FEB. 14 THRU MAY 1**

**QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS** Docent Training Class. 230 Quail Garden Dr., Encinitas. Wed. 9AM-1PM. Call 436-3036. \$30.

**Deadline for submission to HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR for Mar./Apr. issue is Jan. 15. SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION is not responsible for changes that are submitted late by the organizations.**

**NEW EXHIBITORS MEETING**

For the Del Mar Fair Flower and Garden Show, the first exhibitors meeting will be January 11, 1996, Thursday, 7:00PM, in the Administration area boardroom. The speakers are Edgar Engert, Flower Show Superintendent, and China Mannen, Exhibit Manager. The topic is "Help Plan Your Exhibit for the 1996 Del Mar Fair." The committee would like to encourage smaller classifications to enter, especially the plant societies with collections. Please call 792-4273 for more information.





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Manuscripts are invited. Deadlines are the 20th of January, March, May, July, September, and November. *California Garden* reserves the right to edit any and all submitted material. All manuscripts and illustrations will be handled carefully, but we cannot assume responsibility for their safety. Submissions must be double spaced and/or on a computer disk from IBM or compatible. Enclose self-addressed postpaid envelope if you expect them to be returned to you. *Hortus Third* is the authority for all botanical names used in the magazine. All opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editors of *California Garden*. No endorsement of named products is intended, nor is criticism implied of similar products that are not mentioned.

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# California SINCE 1909 GARDEN

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NUMBER 1

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JANUARY-FEBRUARY 1996

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COVER plant was called "Pontic Azalea" by artist Jeanie Foord, saying it was brought from the Levant to England in 1793. (From *Decorative Plant and Flower Studies for Artists and Craftsmen*, reprinted from 1906 original. Dover Publications, Inc., New York. 1982) In *Pat Welsh's Southern California Gardening*, Ms. Welsh says that January is one of the better times to put in azaleas and gives planting instructions.

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**FLOWER SHOWS:** Show chairman contact *California Garden*, 232-5762 if you want the magazine sold at your show.

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# Gleanings . . .

## WILDFLOWER GARDENS . . .

Most wildflowers cannot compete with weeds. Wildflowers are now disappearing from many of our undeveloped hills that are being covered by rapidly spreading European mustard, wild radish and the non-native grasses. Even in the areas seeded with native wildflowers, these invasive weeds are taking over. Be zealous now with your weeding if you have a wildflower garden.

## USE LESS STUFF . . .

The U.S. Environmental Protection agency and seven conservation groups teamed up to try to get some garbage out of the holidays. Thanksgiving to New Year's is the most wasteful season in the United States with the volume of trash going up 25%. The first "Use Less Stuff" day was held on the Thursday before Thanksgiving. They came up with thirty-eight suggestions for using less during this season. One of the main ones was practicing portion control. That means when shopping for holiday meals purchase realistic amounts of food. They estimated that if every American threw away one bite of turkey, one tablespoon of potatoes and one tablespoon of cranberry sauce on Thanksgiving, there would be 28.7 million pounds of extra waste.

That is quite impressive. We haven't been able to find out the other thirty-seven suggestions.

Litter is unsightly and the public cleanup is very expensive. National Parks cleanups cost the taxpayer in excess of \$15 million a year.

How long it takes some of the litter to disappear naturally is:

Paper...decomposes in 2 to 5 months

Orange peel...disappears in 6 months

Milk cartons...more than 5 years

Cigarette filter tips...12 years

Plastic bags...10 to 20 years

Leather shoes...25 to 40 years

Nylon fabric...50 to 80 years

Plastic containers...50 to 80 years

Aluminum cans...100 years

Glass shards & plastic foam...forever

Who knows how long these items last in refuse dumps. Newspapers fifty years old have been found in perfect condition! We all need to think out what we can do to reduce the problems. (My two Boston terriers took care of my turkey and potatoes.)

## MOST POPULAR HERBS . . .

In a recent survey it was found that the top nine herbs grown by herb gardeners are: chives, basil, rosemary, lemon verbena, oregano, sweet marjoram, parsley, French tarragon, and thyme.

## ANOTHER REASON TO GROW TOMATOES . . .

(1) Fresh picked vine-ripened tomatoes have up to three times the vitamin C as the supermarket variety.

(2) Tomatoes lose 50% of the vitamin C after 24 hours. If they are refrigerated at 43°F they will slowly lose 10% of the vitamin C over ten days.

## SOLANACEAE QUESTIONNAIRE

A local author, feeling there is a scarcity of published information on growing the Solanaceae, is working on a book about ornamental plants of this nightshade family (*Brugmansia*, *Datura*, *Solanum*, etc.). She would like to hear from anyone who has had experience growing these plants. Contact her and she will send a brief questionnaire and an SASE. — Susi Torre-Bueno  
5680 Dorothy Way  
San Diego, CA 92115-2307  
delatorr@electriciti.com



Morgan and 'Ballerina' rose, (introduced 1937) grown by Dusty Craig. Dale Craig photograph

# PLACING PLANTS

by CHRISTINE S. WOTRUBA

GARDEN PROJECTS OFTEN SEEM to begin with an inspiration from other gardeners' achievements. In recent discussions with other gardeners, an interesting challenge emerged—how to fill one's available space with a pleasing arrangement of as many new plants as could be discovered. This challenge was to build a collection of unusual plants and present it as a landscape well designed. Finding plant material to grow in Southern California isn't difficult. Nurseries like Perennial Adventure seek out wholesale growers of Australian, South African, southern United States and tropical plants. Gardeners who travel all over the world are bringing seeds home, growing them and propagating plants. The goal, however, is to incorporate these new beauties into our landscape and hope they grow with vigor while enduring our native soils, sun, and water (or drought).

This year my goal was to observe the performance as well as the appearance of these plants in order to be able to recommend their use and placement in the garden. So I walked in my garden this afternoon enjoying and observing the specifics of the border. Late afternoon when the shadows deepen is the best time in this garden. The dazzle of the sun's rays is not in your eyes but is angling through tree branches, podocarpus hedge, and overgrown English roses. It back-lights the broad grape leaves of *Vitis vinifera* 'Purpurea' and they glow bright red like Christmas tree bulbs. **Recommendation:** Back-light colored leaves and tall grasses, too.

That late-day sun also sweeps through the *Coreopsis grandiflora* at about eight feet, brightening patches of *Aster x frikartii* 'Wonder of Staffa,' the loping lavender daisy, to light the smallest of coreopsis in my garden (*Coreopsis auriculata* 'Nana'). Shadows form on its dark flat leaves and are in complete contrast to the sunny golden disk-like flowers each on its own 6 inch stem. Beyond these little clusters are the ferny clumps of *Geranium incanum*. This somewhat aggressive self-sown perennial, with its single pinky magenta flower dotting every few inches of its mounding bush, is a wonderfully unobtrusive filler as long as it is given a trim early each spring. Michaelmas daisies cover a wide bit of ground in the background. These *Aster novi-belgi* were grown from seed and this soft dusky pink flowered group is gaining vigor. **Recommendation:** Contrasting textures and color are lively and provide a sense of motion. Repeat the same arrangement further along the border for rhythm in the design and movement at the garden edge. **Recommendation:** Too much mixing of textural material will make the observer weary so the large space of spreading aster is the restful balance.

Poked between spaces in this arrangement are the light greenish-yellow (chartreuse) bracts of *Euphorbia polychroma*. If weeding were ever a concern, this would be the plant to control. Yet in this tapestry its tough neighbors have allotted it only limited space. It forms a curving line through the lower growing neighbors and connects all the other gold tones in the border. The sun adds its own gold, intensifying and uniting the bouncing golds, yellows, and chartreuse into one bouquet. The predominance of green foliage completes the color spectrum. **Recommendation:** Unify the garden bed by selection of related color.

The soft mauves, magentas, and pinks darken. Purples turn red only for those few moments in the changing sunlight. The tapestry changes. **Recommendation:** A focal point or dominant element in the composition is the purple-red but only for a moment. The secondary color scheme balances the bright gold.

The picture this garden presents is a multidimensional mosaic—flat, ferny, solid and fringed. Its order is in its lively mood and system of color flow. Glowing yellow but without a single daisy, *Tanacetum parthenium* 'Aureum' this yellow-leaved feverfew, connects the sunspotted dots. As is true of perennials grown in this warm southwestern climate, most of these plants stay green throughout the year with typical bloom time of about six weeks. Gardeners cannot depend on flowers from each of these plants at all times, so the choice is for plants with interesting leaves or structure. *Teucrium fruticans* carries the silver and *Tanacetum parthenium* 'Aureum' carries the gold colors that weave through the bed.

This garden bed is also tangles of spring-green bristling stems of *Phlox subulata* (white), loose stemmy wands of *Lythrum* (maroon) and tight silvery felted rosettes of *Lychnis coronaria* (cerise). There are *Felicia echinata* lilac daisies on top of spiny leaved stems, next to *Achillea millefolium* (white) a yarrow of common attributes but fine thread-thin leaves, each putting up with the other. It has practically overtaken its eventual replacement for the spot—*Rosa villosa* (pink) now too young to stand alone. **Recommendation:** Foliage variations provide a drama or tension.

Height variations are planned. With the lawn as a level path between a mass of shrubs, perennials, and bulbs, there is a flow in height as there also is in color and texture. From the short 3" *Veronica prostrata* 'Trehane' grown for its golden foliage, or its taller companion the daylily (*Embercallis*) 'Sir Black Stem' at 15" the foreground planting inches upward from the lawn path. *Agastache* 'Apricot Surprise' (continued on page 28)



# VISIT HUNTINGTON SEASONALLY!

by Catherine L. Zinsky

THE HUNTINGTON LIBRARY and Art Collection, home to Gainsborough's *Blue Boy* and Lawrence's *Pinkie*, are renowned world-wide. So too, are the Huntington Botanical Gardens, and for a modest donation at the gate, you can visit all.

The Botanical Gardens are situated on 130 acres and consist of fifteen specialized gardens. Seeing everything is no easy task, but certainly an enjoyable one—and psychologically restful, despite all the energy expended. The grounds and plantings are singularly well-kept and manicured, a feat only accomplished through organization, excellent gardeners, and knowledgeable, dedicated horticulturists, especially given the diversity of plant life being cultivated.

March is probably the best month to plan a tour of the Camellia Garden, for the trees will be in full bloom. Even if you can't make it in March, however, a visit to the Camellia Garden is still enchanting: the light bouncing off the creamy, smooth trunks of these trees with a soft breeze rustling through the dense bowers above is a quieting, elevating pleasure in any season.

My personal favorite is the Rose Garden, semi-enclosed by a cement pergola etched to resemble tree branches and covered with climbing roses. The Rose Garden itself has representative specimens of nearly 2,000 cultivars, all labeled! Lawns act as pathways between most of the plantings, and there are a few benches scattered around for visitors to sit a spell and enjoy the view.

I was especially anxious to see the David Austin English Roses, and was not disappointed. They were given extensive grounds entirely to themselves, yet are an extension of the main Rose Garden. The aroma exuded in this section is positively intoxicating!

The Desert Garden, however, is the most remarkable.

I am not especially keen on desert plants, so for me to make this admission only underlines just how outstanding this garden truly is. There are yucca plants, *Yucca filifera*, from Mexico that top 80 feet! Then there's the *Euphorbia ingens* from Africa that towers at least 50 feet above. But what is most striking and memorable is the overall visual effect the vast numbers of cacti and succulents evoke through their curious and bizarre shapes. Add to this their diversity in texture and color, and the overall effect is splendidly unearthly—and exciting.

Henry Huntington is said to have initially allotted a

meager half acre to the desert plants in 1906 (1907?). A few expeditions to Mexico and New Mexico soon fixed that, and today the Desert Garden covers about 12 acres and contains more than 5000 species, one of which is named for Mr. Huntington himself, *Cereus huntingtonianus*.

For those of you interested in succulents, this garden is a must; for those who are not, this garden is

still a must. The Cactus Garden is nothing less than a sculpture garden, and is simply too visually stimulating to miss.

Other gardens include the Japanese Garden, Zen Garden, Australian Garden, Shakespeare Garden, and Herb Garden, to name but a few. Unlike other herb gardens I have visited, the Huntington Herb Garden contains its herbs in slightly raised beds that are classified, respectively, as medicinal, cooking, perfume herbs, cosmetic, etc. It's not exact, as many herbs have a multitude of uses and therefore overlap, but it's nonetheless an interesting and educational perspective.

*Acer*, azaleas, and *Viburnum* contribute to the general ambiance of simplicity and quietude in the Japanese Garden. A small pond replete with Koi is of course an integral part as well. At the top of a slight hill rests a



*Cereus milesimus*



Japanese house that commands a panoramic view of the garden.

The Gardens and Library are located at 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, Calif. Call 818/405-2141 for their holiday and seasonal hours. A guide book is available outside the book and gift shop for fifty cents. Between the Shakespeare and Herb Garden is a tea house that serves lunch.

I sincerely recommend seasonal trips to the Huntington in order to best capture the blooming times in the various gardens. Good luck and happy gardening. □

*Catherine L. Zinsky is a free-lance writer for garden and canine publications.*



*Nancy Petitti photograph  
Other photographs by the author*

### *Cactus Gardens*



# GROWING SUNFLOWERS

by BARBARA S. JONES

ALL SUNFLOWERS ARE NOT those eight foot giants of our childhood. Today we have lots of choices, from petite to huge, due to new varieties developed by breeders from *Helianthus annuus*, the common garden sunflower. The plants can vary from one foot to fifteen feet tall and flower colors are yellow, cream, bronze, mahogany, and purple or mixtures of these colors. The seed disk in the center changes color as the seeds mature. Most start greenish-yellow and change to dark brown. In the new pollen free varieties, the central seed disk remains dark colored. They usually are shorter plants that bear smaller flowers. (This is a better cut flower—pollen stains fabrics.) There are specialty varieties that are used for oil production and others, confectionary varieties, that are used whole for food.

Sunflowers need no special culture and they will grow almost anywhere with ordinary ground and exposure. They prefer a sunny location with well-drained soil. The smaller varieties should be used for container growing. Depending upon the variety, blooms will appear fifty-five to seventy-five days after planting. The seeds and plants should be watered regularly. Too much fertilizer will cause the plants to produce foliage instead of flowers.

## HARVESTING SEEDS

If you are growing plants for the seeds, the heads should be picked when about two-thirds of the seeds are mature. (The presence of birds will often indicate this time.) The back of the head will be brownish and appear dry. Two to three feet of the stem should be attached and used to hang the head in a warm, well-ventilated place. When the back is entirely brown and papery, remove the seeds. (Head can be brushed with your hand or a firm brush.) Seeds should be stored in an airtight container. Do not wash the seeds before storing. If you have trouble with birds "harvesting" the seeds, the head can be covered with cheesecloth.

## GROWING HUGE PLANTS

Every year there are many contests throughout the United States for growing the tallest sunflower or one with the

biggest head. If you are growing huge plants (children love to do this) extra fertilizer and water will be needed. The stem probably will need a tall stake for support because the wind can cause the head to move and that will damage or break the stem. Put the stake in at the same time you plant to avoid damaging roots.

## CUT FLOWERS

Using sunflowers for cut flowers is a relatively new use. They do not last well unless certain precautions are taken in the cutting. The National Garden Bureau recommends that the stem be cut immediately under water and placed in a container of warm water containing some flower food. (Cut the stem from the plant a bit longer than you want and then recut under water.) The whole flower-filled container should be covered with a black plastic bag or several layers of newspaper and placed in a cool location for a few hours. Then when you arrange the flowers, they should be recut under water.

## SEEDS

There are seeds of many varieties available at your local nursery or from seed catalogues. Burpee has twelve varieties this year and Liberty has twelve. Read the descriptions because the sunflowers come in all sizes and for all uses. Some of the companies call their small cut-flower varieties "dwarfs." The National Garden Bureau says there is a new variety F1 Hybrid 'Moonbright,' a pollenless cut flower-type sunflower, available this year but only to wholesalers at this time. Whatever the seed, they are fun to grow and their sunshine-faces are cheerful in the garden.

It will soon be sunflower planting time. Just wait until the ground gets warm. Seeds can be planted directly into the garden or started in growing pots and set out. □

*California Garden would like to know how tall your plants got this year and how large a head you grew. Please tell us the variety and where you live as we do have four distinct (and hundreds of micro) climates in this area. We will publish the results in our November-December issue. Send photographs, too. Deadline is 10 October 1996.*

# SHEEP SORREL (RUMEX ACETOSELLA)

WRITTEN and ILLUSTRATED  
by VALERIE ALMOND

## BUCKWHEAT FAMILY

OTHER COMMON NAMES: sourgrass, rose sorrel (The name means "little vinegar plant.")

HABITAT: Throughout North America, along roadsides, in fields, and in cultivated grounds.

FLOWERING SEASON: Spring, summer, and occasionally mild winters.

DESCRIPTION: Slender stems, clustered from long slender rootstalks. The lower leaves are oblong and arrow-shaped with two lobes at the base of each leaf. Flowers are green and in clusters up and down the stems, which usually do not reach over 18 inches in height. Occasionally the flowers will be yellow or red (from age). The upper leaves are small and lobeless.

## EDIBLE PARTS:

- 1) Young leaves
- 2) Seeds

## PREPARATION:

YOUNG LEAVES can be eaten raw but are tart in flavor. They can be used as a substitute for lemon or vinegar. They are good baked with fish, fried with fish, in soups, salads, rice, potatoes, and various sauces. They can be cooked as a green, like spinach, using any of the following seasonings:

Allspice	Marjoram
Basil	Nutmeg
Cinnamon	Oregano
Dill	Rosemary
Mace	Sesame Seed

The younger, smaller leaves can be used as a substitute seasoning in gourmet cooking. Fresh leaves can be steeped in water for at least ten minutes for a tea, which can also be chilled for a refreshing cold drink.

SEEDS can be dried and ground into flour, or boiled into a mush. (continued on page 29)



## GROWING SEEDS OF THE BUCKWHEAT FAMILY

A PLANT FAMILY OFTEN seen in natural areas is Polygonaceae, which includes the familiar buckwheats. Buckwheats are easy to grow and are useful in a natural landscape or in dry flower arrangements. Just pick the seed when you are ready to plant, and seedlings come up easily in great abundance. There are a couple of species that need treatment, as I've shown in the chart, [Fresh seeds will germinate rapidly, but those stored need stratification.], but I think they would be just as easy to grow if you have access to fresh seed. With buckwheat, don't try to separate the seed from the chaff. Plant it all; the tiny seed are too small to pick out separately.

From *Propagation Secrets for California Native Plants*,  
1994, by Jeanine De Hart.



# FEEDING PALMS

by BETTY NEWTON

THIS ARTICLE IS BASED on palm research completed in the last ten years.

Professor Timothy K. Broschat (Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida at Fort Lauderdale) and Dr. Henry Donselman (now a palm specialist, living in Poway) learned through their work that palms—growing under conditions in Florida—need a 3-1-3 ratio of nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium. That means use a fertilizer—sack, box, or bottle—labeled approximately 15-5-15, 21-7-21, or 24-8-24. Nitrogen is the most common deficiency.

Donselman and Broschat are clear about general palm culture: we should not plant the trees deeper than they were growing at the nursery and make sure the planting hole soil drains. Air in the soil is critically important. Water frequently enough. They say, up to three times a week after transplanting into sandy soil.

If you work professionally with palms you may want *Diseases and Disorders of Ornamental Palms*, published in 1991 by the American Phytopathological Society, St. Paul, Minnesota. A smaller, four-page "Palm Nutrition Guide" includes eleven colored pictures of nutrient deficiencies. That will meet the needs of generalists. The guide is available from Florida Cooperative Extension, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, 3205 College Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, 33314-7799 for two dollars and an 8" x 11" self-addressed envelope.

Knowing that Donselman and Broschat did the research together as Florida farm advisors, I queried Dr. Broschat about the relevance of those results here. His response:

As for what elements are deficient in California palms, I can't say with certainty. . . .

Certainly your soils are more fertile and less prone to nutrient leaching than the sandy soils of Florida. My

recommendations for fertilizing container-grown palms (3-1-3 ratio) should hold for container-grown palms in just about any part of the world, due to the general similarity in characteristics of container soils. *However, for landscapes, soil types and rainfall vary so much that our Florida recommendations may not be at all appropriate for Southern California palms.* I gather from my interaction with Don Hodel and Dennis Pittinger at UC-Riverside Extension that no

one has ever done any studies to determine the fertilization requirements for palms in California. If a large number of landscape palm leaf analysis reports were compared to standard published values for palms, it should be possible to determine which elements are most limited in various parts of California where palms are grown. . . . Until someone does this work, you will not be able to make fertilizer recommendations for palms with any degree of certainty. You are fortunate in having soils that are not so nutrient poor as are those of many tropical regions where palms are grown.

## OVERVIEW

Sixteen elements are essential for plant growth. In landscape situations, nitrogen, potassium, magnesium, iron, and manganese are most common deficiencies for palms. We should be able to distinguish a deficit of any of the first three nutrients by looking at the plant. Micronutrient deficiencies may require leaf analysis to diagnose, but homeowners can try (see chart).

A lack of nitrogen, potassium, or magnesium (The latter is a macronutrient.) develops in two ways: insufficiency in the soil or too much of a particular element. In contrast, inadequate trace elements, iron and manganese deficiencies, usually come from factors in the environment. Iron and manganese can (the researchers say) be tied up by composted sewage sludge or manure,



*Rhopalostylis sapida* (feather duster or shaving brush palm), in Balboa Park. Author photograph



bad aeration, too deep planting, cold soil, or root rot. And either excess phosphorus or soil alkalinity can make manganese, iron, or zinc unavailable.

Our water, and sometimes white calcium carbonates in soils, make many landscapes here too alkaline. Soil pH can be decreased (reduced alkalinity) with soil sulfur, iron sulfate, or ammonium fertilizers like ammonium sulfate. Professor Broschat, in private correspondence, writes:

I guess in the absence of any good research on palm fertilization for your area, my suggestion would be to use a citrus fertilizer developed for your area. With the exception of K (potassium), the nutritional requirements of palms and citrus are fairly similar.

For containers, the Florida farm advisor states that an 18-6-12 formula (Osmocote) is commonly used, but a 3-1-3 ratio is preferable. Donselman recommends fertilizing with a fertilizer labeled "palm special" (3-1-3 ratio) four times a year in a wide-banded donut—never within two feet of the trunk. The amounts to use (of a fertilizer around 15-5-15) would be:

big trees such as Canary Island dates, 14 to 20 cups (7-10 pounds)

medium-sized trees such as queen or true date palms, 6-10 cups (3-5 pounds)

small palms such as Chinese windmill or pygmy date, 1 to 6 cups (½-3 pounds).

Donselman thinks that good high quality, slow releasing lawn fertilizers provide adequate nutrition for palms. In checking those available here, I found them low in potassium, compared to the suggested 3-1-3, and often lacking trace elements.

Note especially that a fertilizer high in phosphorus (the second number) almost always creates a manganese deficiency—sometimes to the point where the palm dies! Manganese deficiency results in overall lighter colored leaves, distorted new growth, called "frizzle top," and/or dead spots or blackened stripes on new leaves (see chart). Manganese deficiency is common, says the researcher, on newly transplanted palms and, because many leaves are already developed within the palm, it may take two years to correct.

Applying epsom salts (magnesium sulfate) to correct a deficiency of magnesium can result in too little available potassium, Donselman says. Potassium lack shows up as translucent spots on the palm's oldest leaves. On certain palms, older leaves turn solid yellow, even the midrib.

Unfortunately, working with these leaf symptoms, good local tree men (professionals working with palms almost daily), have trouble telling which nutrient is unavailable. Broschat, writing with Alan Meerow, in the "Palm Nutrition Guide" says:

Diagnosis of nutrient deficiencies by visual symptoms alone can be difficult, since some of the symptoms overlap considerably in some species. For instance,



*Phoenix roebelenii* (pygmy date palm) at Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Barbara S. Jones photo

Mn and late stage K deficiencies are easily confused on queen and royal palms. Potassium and Mg deficiencies are very similar in pygmy date palms and K and Fe deficiencies can be very similar in royal palms. Correct diagnosis can only be assured if leaf nutrient analysis is performed . . .

Nevertheless, through research efforts in Florida, we've learned that landscape palms there that have older leaves with yellow midrib and translucent orange or yellow flecking need more potassium. Perhaps Sea World and the Zoo will support University of California Cooperative Extension research (as outlined by Dr. Broschat) so we can know if their findings are applicable here. Meantime, we should water regularly and well and watch for micronutrient lacks, which can be caused by damaged roots, too little oxygen, or alkaline soil. □

Betty Newton teaches gardening classes at Grossmont Adult Schools and writes for the Sunday San Diego Union-Tribune.

# DIAGNOSING PALM DEFICIENCIES

by BETTY NEWTON from RICHARD HARRIS,  
DONSELMAN, AND BROSCAT

SYMPTOMS	NEEDS	TREATMENT
<b>MACRONUTRIENTS</b>		
general: all leaves yellowing or pale green. no growth	NITROGEN	fertilize with nitrogen
not seen	PHOSPHORUS	
older leaves only: translucent yellow or orange flecking midrib: yellows, some species	POTASSIUM	fertilize with 3-1-3 ratio
older leaves only: distinct orangish band around outside midrib: green	MAGNESIUM	apply epsom salts and potassium
<b>MICRONUTRIENTS</b>		
new leaves: necrotic spots, black stripes, stunted, distorted, “frizzle top” leaves: chlorotic, light yellow	MANGANESE	1) improve aeration 2) reduce phosphorus 3) wait two years  Richard Harris (Davis) says apply manganese sulfate yearly
new leaves: interveinal yellowing, chlorosis	IRON and ZINC	foliar spray with trace elements— bury soil sulfur and wait, or use iron sulfate, chelates

# OLD GARDEN ROSES (Part III)

BY DUSTY CRAIG

THE FOLLOWING IS A partial listing of the old garden roses grown in my Poway garden. The reference to "Dowager" or "Victorian" class refers to showing them in American Rose Society sanctioned rose shows. Dowagers are varieties introduced before 1867; Victorians between 1867 and 1930. The year of introduction of the first hybrid tea, 'La France,' was 1867.

**'ISPAHAN':** Damask, prior to 1832, Dowager class. 10' x 10'. Large, refined, and spreading, this is the ultimate low wall or fence rose. Elegant gray-green foliage is disease free. Intensely fragrant medium pink, fully double blooms come singly and in small sprays for two months in late spring. Moderately thorny. Very reliable canes respond moderately well to pegging. This is the original rose used by the ancient Persians for making attar of roses and rose oil for perfumes. Makes wonderful potpourri. Removal of deadwood and light shaping recommended. Takes about three seasons to become fully established. does not set hips.

**'KATHLEEN':** Hybrid musk, 1922, Victorian class. 3' x 6'. Wonderful rose for shady banks. Perfectly symmetrical five-petaled blooms of blush pink fading to white surrounding gold and maroon stamens come in huge sprays throughout the season. Fragrant. Dark green disease-free foliage, some thorns. Deadheading recommended. Takes about

two seasons to become established. Sets a huge crop of hips.

**'LA REINE VICTORIA':** Bourbon, 1872, Victorian class. 8' x 9'. The most pleasing of the Victorian roses. Charming cupped double blooms of medium pink with a delightful rosy fragrance appear all season long complemented by the leafy mid-green foliage that may mildew and rust a bit. Some thorns. Outstanding response to being pegged. Flowers come in singles and manageable sprays of three to seven. Yearly removal of deadwood a must, deadheading encourages more blooms. Takes about three seasons to become established. Sets few hips.

**'LAWRENCE JOHNSTON':** Hybrid foetida, 1923, Victorian class. To 12' +. Sunny yellow single blooms smother the vigorous climber in the spring with intermittent bloom throughout the season. Light green foliage can mildew some. Thorny. Will climb into anything with its thorns. Pliable canes can be trained easily. Has an unusual, somewhat unpleasant scent, not very strong. Removal of deadwood and deadheading recommended. Takes about four seasons to become established.

Sets hips well.

**'MME. ERNST CALVAT':** Bourbon, 1888, Victorian class. 6' x 6'. A fine sport of 'Mme. Isaac Pereire'. New foliage is deep purple in color, turning a nice matte, medium green that will mildew a bit on occasion. The blooms are a silvery pink on the outer petals deepening to a flesh-pink interior. Packed with hundreds of petals and a deep fragrance that makes it excellent for potpourri. Good cutting rose. Large early spring flush of bloom followed by season-long, intermittent bloom. Responds well to pegging. Somewhat thorny. Takes about three seasons to become established. Few hips.

**'MME. ISAAC PEREIRE':** Bourbon, 1881, Victorian class. 6' x 7'. Humongous blooms—the largest you will ever grow. Size can exceed 8 inches across on a good, established, well-

grown plant. Deep cerise-pink with hundreds of petals, suffused with an intense damask fragrance—superb for potpourri, and a good cutting rose. Large plant will sprawl everywhere and bring blooms with it. Quite thorny. A tiny bit of mildew noted on the dark green foliage on occasion. Great for pegging. Tremendous early to mid-spring bloom followed by occasional bloom all season. Takes about four seasons to become fully established. Few hips.

**'OLD BLUSH':** China, prior to 1752, Dowager class. 7' x 5'. The "Stud

China," an important historical rose. Generally thought to be the first reliably *remontant* (repeat blooming) rose brought to Europe to bring that trait to the once-blooming roses then in existence. Its long and distinguished list of offspring include today's modern hybrid teas, floribundas and grandifloras. At its best without a lot of fussing. Light fertilization and deadwood removal—maybe a bit of shaping—is all it asks for. Relaxed and sprawling bush with thin, nearly thornless canes and light green foliage that will mildew some. The blooms are loosely double with no scent, starting from a deep pink bud that opens quickly to a flat bloom that is deeper pink on the outer petals fading to light pink in the center. Very charming. Good all-season bloom. Establishes quickly. Sets a good crop of hips.

**'PAX':** Hybrid musk, 1918, Victorian class. To 6' +. A nicely scented bloom that starts off pale lemon and fades to ivory is well set off by the deep green, disease-free foliage. Large, semidouble blooms come in droves in the late spring and continue blooming throughout the season. Lax plant that can be



*'Isfahan,'* date unknown, prior to 1832



trained or allowed to cover a bank or low wall. Few thorns. Deadwood removal and deadheading recommended—very light shaping if any. Very shade-tolerant. Takes about four seasons to establish. Sets a good crop of hips.

**'PENELOPE':** Hybrid musk, 1924, Victorian class. 4' x 4'. Delicate blooms look as though they're made of porcelain. Blush pink shades to golden yellow at the base of the petals. Blooms are semi-double, opening to a lovely boss of yellow stamens. Fragrance is very strong in the heat of midday. Mid-green foliage is disease free and round in shape. Few thorns. Fairly upright bush. Good all-season bloom. Shade and semi-drought-tolerant. Deadwood removal and deadheading recommended—otherwise, let it go with just a light shaping, as needed. Takes about two seasons to establish. Sets a good crop of hips.

**'REINE DES VIOLETTES':** Hybrid perpetual, 1860, Dowager class. 15' x 10' +. Everyone should have this rose! So very useful with its long, lax, nearly thornless canes that will go anywhere you want them to go—over an arch, along a fence, up a trellis, down a bank, over a wall, anywhere. Elegant gray-green foliage may mildew just a tiny bit if it is around. The 4-5 inch blooms are flat and packed with hundreds of petals, lightly fragrant. The color is almost indescribable—deep velvety purple shading towards magenta with hints of turquoise-blue, lilac, and lavender. Unbelievable spring bloom with intermittent bloom all season. Semi shade-tolerant. Deadwood removal and deadheading recommended for best bloom. Takes about three seasons to become established. No hips.

**'RÈVE D'OR':** Noisette, 1869, Victorian class. 3' x 5' One of the best of the old yellows if you live in the right climate. Cannot take cold much below 28°F for more than six hours. But will grow well in a pot, which can be brought inside during cold spells. And it would be worth it. Reddish orange buds burst open to brilliant gold fully double blooms that are almost peony-like in form. Fine, spicy fragrance. Fades to light lemon-white. Light green foliage will mildew a bit. Some thorns. Spreading plant that can be trained how you like. Outstanding spring bloom, with intermittent all-season bloom. Deadwood removal and deadheading recommended. Establishes quickly. Sets a good crop of hips.

**ROSA DAMASCENA 'BIFERA' (AUTUMN DAMASK):** Damask, prior to 1819, Dowager class. 10' x 12'. Another historical rose, this one famous for its contribution of fragrance

to *remontant* roses. Big, strong plant with lax canes armed to the nines with bristles, spikes, and thorns. Light green foliage is disease resistant, a bit of mildew noted at times. Clusters of loosely double, bright pink blooms with yellow stamens scent the very air about them starting in late spring and continuing throughout the season in warmer areas. Must be shown under the name "Autumn damask." Massive deadwood removal and shaping to fit recommended. Takes about three seasons to become established. Sets hips well.

**ROSA MOSCHATA 'PLENA':** Musk, ancient, Dowager class. 12' x 4'. For sheer fragrant beauty, it is hard to beat this one. Masses of small, double pure white blooms explode all over the rambling plant in late spring/early summer, filling the air with their lovely scent of rose and musk. The dark green foliage is disease free, and the large thorns enable the lax canes to climb wheresoever they please. Excellent climbing into trees of other stout climbing roses such as 'Cécile Brunner,' where it can

display its fountain of blooms well. Only once blooming, but late enough to take over the dead space between other roses' bloom cycles. Deadwood removal recommended. Takes about five seasons to become established. Sets a good crop of hips.

**ROSA RUGOSA 'RUBRA':** Species, ancient, Dowager class. 4' x 6'. A rose for all problem areas, from beachfront to desert to tropic rainforest. Fossilized remains of the rose have been dated to five million years ago. Known by such unattractive names as the Potato Rose, the Tomato Rose, and the Salt Lick Rose, this is the rose to plant where nothing else will grow. Once

established, it needs little water beyond rainfall, is disease free, and even the bugs ignore it. And it rewards this neglect with large, elegant five-petaled blooms of vin rose surrounding cream stamens and suffused of a lovely true rose fragrance all season long. In the fall, has both flowers and large, sweet hips that make fine jam and tea. The foliage will also turn yellow, orange, and red in the fall, giving a magnificent all around display to enjoy. Like all rugosas, blooms on old wood and looks dead in the winter. Shape lightly and carefully remove deadwood. Takes about three seasons to become established. Outstanding crop of hips. □

*Dusty Craig has been growing roses since moving into the Poway area in 1985. In November of 1994, she became a fully accredited horticultural judge for the American Rose Society.*

*Photographs by Dale Craig.*



*Rosa moschata 'Plena,' ancient*



# WHAT SHALL WE CALL YOU, PRETTY FACE? HOW ABOUT *TRITELEIA IXIOIDES*?

BY JANE FIELD ALEXANDER

TWO QUESTIONS ABOUT ANY PLANT are a) What is its name? and b) Who named it? In reply to a): most plants have at least two names, the first being a scientific term, standard throughout the world, and the second a common name. Or two common names. Or three, four, even five.

For example, *Dicentra spectabilis* turns out to be the perfectly-dubbed bleeding heart. But a complete plant guide will list it also as seal flower and lady's locket. The tropical tree *Delonix regia* is, in song and story, poinciana. Plus royal poinciana, flamboyant, or most truly, flame of the forest.



Flame of the forest

And little did I know, living in El Centro decades ago, that the *Antigonon leptopus* in nearly every Imperial Valley garden is also chain-of-love, coral vine, corallita, queen's wreath, and bride's tears. Most of us appreciative of this beautiful blessing in the desert's heat thought of it only as Mexicali rose.

How is it, now thinking of question "b)" that innocent, unknowing plants can have such a variety of labels? Who selected them?

The Latin names of absolute identity are bestowed by scientists based on scientific criteria. Thousands of plants, especially in fast disappearing rain forests, have yet

to be classified, although regional natives may have their own terms for them.

Generic appellations have often caught on among those who have grown up observing, appreciating, and using their native flora. Similarly, strangers in a strange land, like our westward moving pioneers, have amused themselves by noting foreign-to-them plants and noting such phenomena in their journals, often considering a likeness in a plant to something familiar.

Consider, for instance, articles of clothing. One flower reference lists lilac sunbonnet, lad's trousers, ladies' purses, Apache plume, (CONTINUED ON PAGE 25)



Queen's Wreath



Cat's claw vine



## Now is the Time . . .

A CULTURAL CALENDAR OF CARE FROM OUR AFFILIATES, UC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION, AND CALIFORNIA GARDEN STAFF

### AFRICAN VIOLETS

Mort Brigadior

#### NOW IS THE TIME

- TO SIMPLY** sit back and enjoy our African violets.
- TO SEPARATE** and repot only if daughter plants are pushing the mother plant up and out of the pot.
- TO RETURN** those plants that you may have moved during the holidays.
- TO EXPERIMENT** by wick-watering some plants, bottom-watering others, and top-watering a third group.
- TO USE** a humidifier for your plants if you heat your home and awaken with a dry throat.

### BEGONIAS

Margaret Lee

#### NOW IS THE TIME

- TO WATCH** the watering program; slower growth requires less water. Do not allow to dry out or to become too wet.
- TO KEEP** plants clean; remove dead leaves and old foliage.
- TO START** cutting back cane-type and shrub-like types.
- TO ADD** more planter mix as needed to keep roots covered.
- TO SPRAY** for mildew.
- TO CONTROL** slugs, snails, mealybugs and loopers.
- TO START** in February tuberous types for summer blooms.

### BONSAI

Dr. Herbert Markowitz

#### NOW IS THE TIME

- TO COLLECT** native stock in the California region. Plant the native trees in a larger container, not a bonsai pot.
- TO GRAFT** conifers, deciduous and evergreen trees.
- TO USE** lime-sulfur spray on deciduous trees.
- TO REDUCE** watering if a rainy period.

**TO PRUNE** fruit-bearing bonsai.

**TO WATCH** for aphids and other sucking insects; spray accordingly.

**TO REMEMBER NOT** to fertilize your trees. Allow plants to rest.

**TO START** in February to repot and transplant some varieties if weather is favorable.

### BROMELIADS

Mary Siemers

#### NOW IS THE TIME

**TO KEEP** plants from damage by possible hail. Give them overhead protection such as placing them under trees, shade cloth or any other suitable material.

**TO PROTECT** plants from freezing temperatures; keep at least 2 inches above ground and cover with newspapers, sheets, etc. or bring them indoors.

**TO BE** careful when having plants indoors not to place them in front of a heating vent or in a drafty area.

**TO EMPTY** water from outdoor plants when it has rained consistently for two or three days. The weight of too much water can cause the leaves to spread apart, affecting the compact form.

**TO CUT** the frequency of watering during the cooler weather.

**TO NOT** fertilize until weather begins to warm.

### CACTI & SUCCULENTS

Joseph A. Betzler

#### NOW IS THE TIME

**TO REMEMBER** to rest winter dormant plants and keep the winter growers happy. Be careful with water and fertilizer as it gets cold—water in the early part of a sunny day so water will evaporate and fungi will not start easily. If it looks like rain, hold off on the water.

**TO PROTECT** outside plants from excessive rain if possible. If frost is likely, a little protection with a piece of paper or plastic can save a plant. Many tropical succulents will turn into a mass of soggy pulp if frozen. Remember to remove cover when conditions become more favorable.

**TO WATCH** new cuttings—they may not root quickly. If you can supply bottom heat you should not have much of a problem.

**TO KEEP** an eye on the seedlings. Fungi can be a problem at this time. Snails can make a great midnight snack of the seedlings—use some form of snail and slug control if needed.

**TO CLEAN** up old pots and pick up the last of the old leaves and other debris. You do not want to encourage mice and roof rats. Rodents can make a mess of your prize plants.

**TO NOTE** those plants you want to propagate the next growing season. Find out how to make new starts. Plan your spring display now.

## CAMELLIAS

E. C. (Gene) Snooks

### NOW IS THE TIME

**TO MAINTAIN** a regular watering schedule to supplement periods between rains. Plants must be kept moist but not wet.

**TO CHOOSE** and plant camellias while they are in bloom.

**TO KEEP** plants clean and pick up all blooms to prevent petal blight.

**TO FEED** with 2-10-10 fertilizer to get better and larger blooms.

**TO MAKE** grafts.

**TO TREAT** a few buds with gibberellic acid for larger flowers.

**TO TRANSPLANT** camellias; do not fertilize newly transplanted plants.

## DAHLIAS

Abe Janzen

### NOW IS THE TIME

**TO DIG** any tubers left in the ground. By early January the tops should be completely withered. Cut tops just above the ground.

**TO STORE** tubers without dividing. Store in vermiculite or sand, leaving on the soil that clings to them. Keep in a cool place.

**TO INSPECT** those tubers stored earlier for any sign of shriveling. If too dry, add a little moisture.

**TO START** in February to prepare the planting bed. Turn the soil, add humus and fumigate. Dig in humus and add equal parts of superphosphate and sulfate of potash. Turn over well. Add fertilizer two or three weeks before planting.

**TO SPROUT** some selected roots in February—these make good cuttings. Bottom heat may be applied to encourage sprouting.

## EPIPHYLLUMS

### NOW IS THE TIME

**TO TAKE** advantage of beneficial rains. Collect the rainwater for future use. Store in opaque containers to prevent infestation of mosquito larvae and buildup of algae.

**TO PROTECT** plants from unexpected frost and strong wintery winds.

**TO BAIT** for snails and slugs.

**TO SPRAY** insecticides only if necessary. Do not use oilbase types. Use Orthene™, malathion, and Cygon™ available locally. Read and follow directions carefully.

**TO PRUNE** out dead and unsightly growth, allowing more energy to be used by newer and healthier branches.

**TO FEED** mature plants with a 0-10-10 fertilizer to promote blooming in spring. Use liquid or slow-release granules. Another application may be necessary in about thirty days.

## FERNS

Ray Sodomka

### NOW IS THE TIME

**TO SPRAY** for aphids, especially maidenhair.

**TO WATER** gently, but do not soak. On cool nights soaking keeps their feet too cold. Do not rely on rain to find your hidden and covered plants—they may remain dry.

**TO TRIM** off old fronds in frost free areas.

**TO FERTILIZE** *Platynerium* (stag horns) with bone meal, hoof & horn, or high nitrogen liquid.

**TO REMOVE** and remount *Platynerium* pups.

**TO PLANT** spores.

**TO CHECK** for spider mites on the underside of fronds. Mites are very small and may not be seen. Fronds will be silvery on top and start to turn brown. Spray with malathion or miticide.

**TO REPOT**, rebasket and divide ferns in frost free areas.

## FUCHSIAS

### NOW IS THE TIME

**TO PRUNE** fuchsias severely if not done in the fall.

**TO CLEAN** up all leaves and other trash in baskets, pots and around ground plants.

**TO SPRAY** remaining foliage and ground to eradicate pests that may winter over.

**TO KEEP** plants moist but not wet.

**TO FEED** with a good fertilizer—fish (10-5-5) or a slow release type. These can be used for your year-round feeding.

**TO USE** insecticides or fungicides if there is a problem.

## GERANIUMS (Pelargoniums)

Carol Roller

### NOW IS THE TIME

**TO WATER** thoroughly when plants become somewhat dry. Allow the excess water to drain away. Keep foliage as dry as possible. Relocate potted plants if there is prolonged rain.

**TO CONTINUE** feeding with a balanced fertilizer with micronutrients. Use at less than the recommended strength. Apply as often as needed to avoid nutritional deficiencies.

**TO CONTINUE** a pest control and disease prevention program. Use all all products according to the manufacturers' instructions.

**TO PRUNE** any plants that have not been cut back. At least one green leaf should remain on stems of regals, scented and similar types. Lanky plants which were previously pruned, can be cut back to produce compact plants. Tip pinch plants which were pruned in the fall.

**TO MAKE** cuttings from the prunings. Shelter the cuttings from extreme weather. Placing them in a warm location will produce roots more rapidly.

**TO PROTECT** plants from freezing temperatures.

Temporary coverings may be used.

**TO CONTINUE** to rotate plants to keep them well-shaped.

## IRIS

San Diego-Imperial County Iris Society

### NOW IS THE TIME

**TO KEEP** old brown fans off the tall bearded. Good ground cleaning and spraying is helpful in pest control.

**TO MAKE** last plantings of bulbous irises for spring bloom.

**TO WATCH** watering, if rains are light. Rhizomes should not be allowed to dry out.

**TO START** a regular spraying program with copper oil to help control rust.

**TO START** in February to feed all irises with 0-10-10 liquid fertilizer. Follow directions carefully and do not over fertilize.

## ORCHIDS

Charles Fouquette

### NOW IS THE TIME

**TO CHECK** the moisture in pots of outdoor growing orchids including cymbidiums under cover. Protect them from cold rains and possible hail damage.

**TO CONTINUE** staking and grooming cymbidium flower spikes.

**TO USE** low-nitrogen fertilizer on cymbidiums. Do not feed if overcast.

**TO KEEP** nobile-type dendrobiums on the dry side. Watch for swelling of nodes for flower production, then move them to where it is warmer.

**TO REMEMBER** phals should be spiking and if moving the plant, to place it in the same general direction and area so that the flowers will bloom in a uniform manner.

**TO WATER** early in the morning so crowns will be dry by nightfall.

**TO WATCH** closely for slugs and snails. These pests are coming out of hibernation and proliferating after the rains. Granules of 7.5% metaldehyde are an excellent bait and do not attract children or pets and do not leave a mess.

**TO BE AWARE** in outlying areas of any sudden temperature drops.

## ROSES

Marianne Truby

### NOW IS THE TIME

**TO MAINTAIN** a complete calendar of procedures you follow in preparing/maintaining/feeding your roses. The work you do now is the basis of your success or failure in the rose garden.

**TO STRIP** any foliage remaining on your bushes and rake and clean up the beds. If you have given your bushes dormant spray in late December you will be wise to repeat it, weather permitting. This will

do a lot to prevent overwintering spores of mildew and fungus.

**TO PLANT** new bushes in holes you prepared earlier, and watch closely to see that they stay green and do not dehydrate. If the weather is hot and dry, mound soil or mulch up the canes and keep damp with frequent sprinkling.

**TO PRUNE** established hybrid teas, mid-January through Valentines Day. Attend the demonstrations on pruning in Balboa Park Rose Garden.

**TO FEED** new plants with liquid fertilizer when bushes have a full set of leaves. These new bushes may be the first to bloom and after verifying you have the correct plant, break off the bloom leaving the new growth intact.

**TO APPLY** rose food to established bushes in early February. A cup of alfalfa meal or pellets worked into the drip basin will work well on established roses.

**TO MAINTAIN** moisture level at all times.

**TO WATCH** for the first signs of aphids on the new growth and knock them off with a strong stream of water from the hose. They are lazy and will take a few days to climb back up.

**TO SPRAY** a fungicide weekly to prevent mildew.

**TO FINGER PRUNE** when multiple buds break on the canes, leaving only the strongest to promote strong growth.

## NATIVES

Jeanine De Hart

### NOW IS THE TIME

**TO PLANT** any more natives that you have purchased. They should survive, especially if you live on the coast.

**TO PRUNE** any of the winter blooming natives as they finish blooming.

**TO CHECK** for emerging insect pests and to spray if necessary. Check the buds on the early *Ceanothus* for the *ceanothus* bud worm larva. If there is a thickening of the bud, cut and check for a tiny white worm with a black head. Destroy these thickened areas.

**TO MAKE** sure the areas near natives are kept weeded.

**TO SOW** seed for native annuals and short-lived perennials, if you haven't already done so.

## FRUIT TREES AND VINES

Vincent Lazaneo, Hort. Advisor UC Coop Extension

### NOW IS THE TIME

**TO FINISH** pruning dormant deciduous trees and vines before leaf buds start to grow.

**TO PRUNE** evergreens just before or when new growth begins.

**TO SPRAY** dormant deciduous trees and vines with horticultural oil before buds begin to open to control overwintering insect pests.

**TO SPRAY** dormant peach and nectarine trees with a fungicide such as lime sulfur (calcium polysulfide)



before buds begin to open to control leaf curl.  
**TO PLANT** dormant bare-root trees and vines.  
**TO PAINT** the trunks with whitewash to protect the bark from sunburn injury.  
**TO PROVIDE** frost protection for young citrus and other subtropical fruit trees.

## VEGETABLES

**Vincent Lazaneo, Hort. Advisor UC Coop Extension NOW IS THE TIME**

**TO CONTINUE** planting cool-season vegetables that are not likely to be damaged by frost. Cool-season vegetables include broccoli, brussels sprouts, beets, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, endive, kale, kohlrabi, lettuce, peas, potatoes (white), radish, rutabaga and turnip.

**TO USE** floating row cover fabric on seeded and transplanted crops to accelerated their growth.

**TO PLANT** dormant crowns of artichoke, asparagus and rhubarb.

**TO PLANT** seeds of medium-day-length onions such as 'White Sweet Spanish,' 'Stockton Yellow Globe' and 'Italian Red' (short storage life) during February for bulbs in late summer.

**TO ORDER** seeds of warm season vegetables for planting in the spring.

## VEGETABLES, ANNUALS

**from UC Cooperative Extension Publications NOW IS ONE OF THE BETTER TIMES IN FROST-FREE AREAS**

**TO PUT IN TRANSPLANTS OF:** broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, and lettuce — Chinese forget-me-not (*Cynoglossum amabile*) cineraria, fairy primrose (*Primula malacoides*), garden stock (*Matthiola incana*), pansy, pink sand verben, pot marigold (*Calendula*), snapdragon, and viola.

**TO PUT IN SEEDS OF:** beet, carrot, chard, kale, kohlrabi, lettuce, onion (green and dry), parsnip, spinach, and turnip — baby blue eyes, candytuft, China asters, Chinese forget-me-not, coleus, delphinium, dianthus, forget-me-not, hollyhock, impatiens, lobelia, petunia, poppies, scabiosa, sweet alyssum, and Virginia stock (*Malcolmia maritima*).



hollyhock

# CAMELLIAS

by ANN WATERS

FEBRUARY IS THE BEST time of the year to purchase camellias. Nursery plants are in flower so you can see what future blooms will look like. Camellias come in great variety. The flower colors include white and many shades and intensities of red, rose, pink, and combinations of these colors. It is the choice time to plant camellias before new growth begins at the end of the bloom period.

Most camellias require filtered sun. Too dense shade will encourage leggy, sparse growth and erratic blooming. Although some types, like the sasanquas, will tolerate full sun, most prefer light shade. They like to be cool during the heat of the day so they should be put on the shady side of the house. There are some varieties that can tolerate more heat—check with your nurseryman. Camellias make excellent container plants for a protected area of the patio. Avoid planting camellias in the path of hot, drying winds.

The first three years in a camellia's life are most important. The secret is to tend them carefully during that period.

## PLANTING

Camellias need a soil that is slightly acid. The soil must drain well. Soggy roots probably are the number one camellia killer.

To plant, dig a hole about 3 feet wide and 2 feet deep. Do not place gravel in the bottom of the hole as this will create a sump to hold excess water. Score the outside of the root ball to promote better growth. Prepare a soil blend of 2/3 planting mix and 1/3 sandy garden soil. Put a layer in the planting hole. Place the camellia in the hole so the top of the planting ball is 1 to 2 inches above the existing soil level. Firmly pack mix around the root ball. (This method of planting "high" is recommended by many camellia growers as a compensating factor for settling of the root ball.) In making the watering basin, taper the soil mix to prevent excess moisture from accumulating at the base of the plant. Do not cover the crown of the plant. Immediately water with a solution of a root stimulator to offset transplant shock. Finally apply 2 inches of mulch to keep roots cool and moist during the hot summer months. Do not cultivate at the base of the plant as camellias have many surface roots that may be damaged.

## FERTILIZING

Feed camellias lightly once a month after completion of their blooming period and until buds set. Use a solid acid food. Just sprinkle it around the plants; do not cultivate. Feed them only when the soil is moist and water immediately after feeding. When buds have set change to a bloom fertilizer. Generally feeding time is from May to October. Follow the label directions carefully and not overfeed the plants.

## WATERING

With a proper soil mix, watering is much easier. Check frequently for dryness and water well when the soil shows dry about one inch deep. Keep the root area moist but not soggy. An occasional deep leaching type of

watering is recommended to flush the soil and root area of accumulation of alkaline salts. Salt burn is characterized by marginal edges of the older leaves turning brown.

### PRUNING

To get the biggest blooms, twist off developing flower buds (the fat ones, not the slim growth buds) in midsummer so there are no more than two to a cluster.

Prune for bushiness right after flowering. None of the next year's blossoms are lost and spring's new growth is directed to desirable branches.

Camellias are easy to prune; the objectives are to shape plants so they are pleasing to the eye, and, if necessary, to control plant size and density. Pruning also will stimulate plant growth and encourage more flower production. Study the plant to determine the most desirable size and shape. The natural growth habit of the specific variety often dictates whether it should be pruned as a shrub or a tree. To prune for bushiness, make cuts just above point where one year's growth stopped and the next year's began. Several branches should grow beneath the cut.

Use sharp pruning shears or long-handled loppers for the job. Make all cuts just above a growth bud or close to a main branch—don't leave stubs.

First, cut away root suckers that sprout from the base of the plant. Prune lower branches up to about a foot from the ground to keep blossoms from hitting the earth and to make cleanup under plants easy.

Cut out all dead branches and weak wood. Next, remove crossing branches, crooked ones and any growing counter to the desired form. Thin when growth is so dense that flowers have no room to open properly. Step back from the plant repeatedly to be sure your cuts are enhancing its overall shape. Finally, if the height or size of the camellia needs to be controlled, cut branch tips as required.

### PESTS AND DISEASES

Camellias have few difficulties but it is wise to control pests by spraying with an insecticide when the plant shows new growth. Yellow leaves are a sign of trouble and can be eased by regular applications of an iron chelate.

### CLEANUP

Camellias should be just about finished blooming by May. Clean them up by removing dead blossoms from the plant and surrounding ground. This will help prevent camellia petal or blossom blight, which can be a problem, especially in shady, coastal gardens.

Camellia plants are quite slow growing and will live 100 years or more and reach a height of 25 feet. Some make an ideal shrub. Once established, they are fairly easy to tend. They are susceptible to few insects and pests and they will tolerate low temperatures. Favorite plants for Southern California include 'Bob Hope', which has large, red blooms; 'Misty Moon', with large lavender-pink

blossoms and 'Elizabeth Dowd Silver', which features blossoms that are blush pink and bordered in white. The three that stand up best to Southern California's heat, alkaline water, and drying winds are 'Debutante', 'Pink Perfection', and 'Jordan's Pride' ('Herme'). It is interesting that the pink-flowered varieties are the toughest and most sun-tolerant.

### RECOMMENDED EARLY BLOOMERS

#### *Camellia japonica*

Japonicas are well known in Southern California and, after a century, they are still the most widely sold type. Plant forms generally are large, with many old ones topping 20 feet. Large, usually double flowers are commonly in the red to white range.

'Daikagura' This large, white-splotted rose-red camellia is a consistently successful early bloomer. Two good early varieties came from it: the eggshell 'Conrad Hilton' and pale pink 'High Hat.' All three are compact growers with peony-form flowers.

'Debutante' Light pink, full peony-form flower, extremely long blooming season, and vigorous columnar growth when young.

'Firefalls' Glowing crimson, full peony-form, 3- to 4-inch bloom. A medium-sized upright plant. Fills out as quickly as it grows up.

'Kickoff' Large, loose 5-inch peony flowers are pale pink marked with deep pink. 'Touchdown', a rose-red, came from the same variety. It has vigorous,



Rose-pink *Camellia reticulata* hybrid  
'Nancy Reagan,' blooms 7 inches across,  
upright growth  
Betty Newton photo

columnar growth when young, spreads at maturity. 'Little Slam' Some of these small (under 3-inch), red peony-form flowers spot-bloom as early as October. The form is narrow, upright, and compact. 'Lulu Belle' This large (4- to 5-inch) white peony-form flower grows on a vigorous, upright shrub. 'Nuccio's Gem' This camellia was developed in 1970. 'Scentsation' Silvery-pink flowers, 3- to 4-inches in diameter, have a nice fragrance. The plant is medium-sized, upright.

#### *Camellia sasanqua*

These are the first camellias to flower each year, usually starting with single-flowered varieties and ending with the doubles. When their delicate, short-lived flowers die or are knocked apart by wind or rain, they fall to the ground (old flowers of most japonica varieties must be picked off). They set a heavy crop of buds and new blooms soon replace those lost in storms.

'Apple Blossom' The scented single white flowers edged with pink look just like apple blossoms. The shrub is vigorous and dense.

'Bonanza' This low, compact camellia is the first to bloom at Huntington Botanical Gardens each year (September). The flowers are 2½ inches wide, deep red, irregular double.

'Momozono Nishiki' The name means "peach garden, shaded."

'Narumigata' This camellia makes a great espalier.

'Tanya' If you continually cut out top growth, it can grow into an interesting ground cover.

'Yuletide' Peak bloom is at Christmas.

#### *Camellia reticulata*

Reticulatas tolerate more sun than japonicas and growth is more open. The majority of the variety have large, semi-double blooms.

'Buddah' Rose pink, very large semi-double.

'Crimson Pink' Carmine red, very large semi-double.

'Tali Queen' Turkey red to deep pink, very large semi-double. Species

*C. granthamiana* This wild plant was discovered in the hills near Hong Kong.

*C. hiemalis* 'Chansonette' Small, double, pink flowers. Cascading form makes it a good choice for use in a hanging basket or as a ground cover.

*C. saluenensis-japonica* hybrid 'Garden Glory' Very long blooming season. □

Ann Waters is tour chairman for San Diego Floral Association.

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## Book Reviews

### BEATRIX: THE GARDENING LIFE OF BEATRIX JONES FARRAND 1872-1959

Jane Brown

New York, Penguin USA, 1995, 252 pages, 119 illustrations including color photos, 9" x 11 1/2", hardcover, \$50.00

My immediate visual association with the work of Beatrix Farrand is Dumbarton Oaks in the Georgetown area of Washington, D.C. It is one of the premier gardens in America, on a site that cascades down a steep incline into Rock Creek Park creating the illusion of a country estate in a deeply urban setting. The skill and sensitivity of the creator of this design is incredible and the recognition of her masterful work was all but lost for nearly half a century. Were it not for the gift of Dumbarton Oaks to Harvard College and the retention of its original head gardener, even this vestige could have been lost. (But that is another story not covered by this book.)

Not unlike our own Kate Sessions and only fifteen years her junior, Beatrix Farrand was an exceptional professional in the field of horticulture and design dominated by men. She focused upon her life interests early. Her genteel upbringing and high social connections through both her own family and that of her husband, academician Max Farrand, enabled her to obtain commissions and she moved easily in these elite circles. But it was her drive, interest, skill, and talent that built her design business. A socially imperative "Grand Tour" of Europe in 1895 impressed upon young Beatrix the integral design and style that was to be in such demand among the industrialists, and she studied it avidly with copious notes and numerous garden walks with designers and caretakers.

The discipline of Landscape Architecture was in its emerging stages and she was called upon by organizing groups for her input, but preferred to refer to herself as a Landscape Gardener. The greatest number of the gardens she designed and influenced were concentrated in her home area of Bar Harbor, Maine, but her designs include major universities, English estates, even a design for a garden at the White House. Unfortunately, few gardens have survived over time, but her carefully written notes, book collection, and drawings reside in special collections at the University of California in Berkeley. Although her husband had the position of Director of the Huntington Library and Museum in Pasadena, her work in California was limited. She did contribute to the garden of Robert and Mildred Bliss at Casa Dorinda in Santa Barbara, the central quadrangle at Occidental College in Los Angeles, the

garden for the private Hale Solar Observatory in Pasadena, and plantings around several halls at the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena.

Her story is a fascinating look at a devoted professional through her correspondence and writings. It also describes an era in which America was still defining itself, growing and stretching limits, creating its own sense of self. Beatrix Jones Farrand furthered this process, clearly and intelligently, leaving a fine legacy of design and example. Jane Brown's account is fascinating for gardeners and historians alike.

*Reviewed by Lucy Warren*

### COLLECTING AND PRESERVING PLANTS

Ruth B. MacFarlane

New York, Dover Publications, 1994, 184 pages, 102 b&w illustrations, 5 1/4" x 8 1/2", softcover, \$5.95

Based on her experience at a Michigan herbarium, Ruth MacFarlane succinctly summarizes the techniques of collecting and preserving plants. She provides detailed collecting instructions for the beginner and some interesting tips on pressing specimens for those more experienced.

Chapters on exploring the ornamental uses of dried plants include two-dimensional projects such as pictures, bookmarks, and place mats, and what she terms three-dimensional, i.e., bouquets, centerpieces, and arrangements under glass.

There are few books available at any price on collecting and preserving, which makes this a wonderful buy at \$5.95.

*Reviewed by R. Cox*

### HERBS AND HERB LORE OF COLONIAL AMERICA Colonial Dames of America

New York, Dover Publications, 1995, 80 pages, 60 b&w line drawings, 5 1/4" x 8 1/2", softcover, \$3.95

Research for the Colonial Dames' planting at Wethersfield, Connecticut is the source of this book. All plant material has been documented as being available in New England prior to the nineteenth century. Sixty plants are illustrated and a brief history and Colonial use given, including those known as a "simple" defined as a plant possessing a virtue and constituting a simple remedy. This reprint of a 1970 title will appeal to herb growers and those interested in early American home gardens.

*Reviewed by R. Cox*

### GYMNOCALYCIUM: A Collector's Guide John Pilbeam

Rotterdam, A. A. Balkema publishers, 1995, 176 pages, 124 color photos, 8" x 11 1/4", hardcover, \$70

Every few years that prolific author, John Pilbeam, puts forth another monograph on a cactus or succulent genus; this one, the latest, has the comprehensive coverage we have come to expect from Mr. Pilbeam. *Gymnocalycium* is a large genus of cacti native to southern South America east of the Andes; it is a group much favored by collectors of cacti for general attractiveness, reliable flowering, and ease of culture. That the plants will remain small to medium sized is also a plus.

*Gymnocalycium*—the name means "naked calyx"—is characterized by having somewhat tuberculate ribs; flowers and fruits without any wool, hair, or spines; somewhat chunky

bodies; and fruits that split to expose the seeds. Flower colors range from whitish (most commonly) through pink to lavender or red, or yellow. Spines are often curved and often short, but never hooked.

This book is quite comprehensive, covering cultivation (for the British Isles—not very useful for Southern California); classification by various authorities, past and present, distribution, with maps; and an alphabetical checklist of species with reference to the literature and cross-references to invalid names. Every species is described in detail and illustrated by clear black-and-white photographs showing close-ups of spination, and by one or more color photographs of the flowers. An additional feature of the book, very useful to those who buy seeds without names but with collection numbers, is a series of lists of the field numbers of many collectors. These lists give both plant names and localities.

This well illustrated book should prove very useful to hobbyists who grow or would like to grow this genus, especially those who would like to verify the names attached to their plants.

*Reviewed by Phyllis Flechsig*

## GARDENER'S EYE AND OTHER ESSAYS

Allen Lacy

New York, Henry Holt & Co., 1995, 282 pages, 5½" x 8¼", softcover, \$14.95

This book is well qualified for inclusion in horticultural libraries, and it would make a good gift for an armchair gardener. Allen Lacy has been gardening since childhood; he is also a teacher of philosophy and an accomplished and often-published essayist.

Of varying lengths, these pieces cover many aspects of gardening. They are grouped in four parts, titled "The Gardener's Eye," "Closely Watched Plants," "People and Places" and "On Home Ground," and they include sensitive descriptions and practical information, mixed with humor and wit. The author has visited many notable gardens, e.g., Middleton Place and Butchart Gardens, and he quotes such gardening greats as John Gerard, Gertrude Jekyll and Louise Beebe Wilder. Titles listed in the bibliography date from 1869 to 1990, and the section on sources and resources is strengthened with experience-born good advice.

Non-gardeners will enjoy this book for its readability and for the author's personality. He deserves a wide audience.

*Reviewed by Elsie M. Topham*

## COMPLETE BOOK OF HOUSEPLANTS

John Evans

New York, Viking Studio Books, 1994, 250 pages, 250 color photos, 8" x 10½", hardcover, \$27.95

More than a few books on houseplants are currently available; they vary in size, format, price and quality, and the selection is wide. This book is a good choice. Although it is written for British readers it is readily usable elsewhere, though the recommended use of bougainvillea and hibiscus as indoor plants is likely to intrigue Southern Californians.

The text is efficiently organized and there are many good color photos, plus attractive water color and line drawings. John Evans is a horticulturist whose family has operated a nursery business in England since 1876, and he has some interesting

stories of the early days of their enterprise. His discussion of indoor plants for the home gives suggestions for every room, including bathrooms and kitchens, and he has two pages on fun plants for children. His lists of plants give descriptions and notes on care and problems, and each example is labeled as easy, quite easy, quite difficult, or difficult. The section on how to care for your plants has general information on light, temperature, feeding, propagation and related topics, and the index gives popular names as well as botanical ones. This is a user-friendly book.

*Reviewed by Elsie M. Topham*

## BOB FLOWERDEW'S BOOK OF COMPANION GARDENING

Bob Flowerdew

North Pomfret, Vt., Distributed by Trafalgar Press, 1995, 176 pages, 142 color photos, 9" x 11", softcover, \$22.95

We have all seen lists in which some unknown authority declares that one plant should be grown with another or by no means grow this and that together. Occasionally there are some cryptic notes indicating the function that the companion plant serves. The rules and combinations seem endless and overwhelming, sometimes even esoteric, particularly for a beginning gardener. British gardener Bob Flowerdew comes from an old farming family and is a member of the Henry Doubleday Research Institute and the Soil Association. He generously shares his extensive knowledge and experience in the context of a broader definition of companion planting. As with many authorities who are thoroughly conversant in their expertise, he is able to share his knowledge on a level readily understandable by general gardeners—and it makes sense.

His beginning includes many beautiful illustrative photos as he carefully explains the elements of companion planting, including weather protection, soil improvement, competition, insect deterrent, and attraction of beneficial insects. Beneficial properties also may include reduction of diseases, attraction of pollinators or insect predators, and weed control. Individual plants are described for the benefits they may induce—the whys and wherefores of their being a good companion plant. Importantly, Bob Flowerdew stresses the relative importance of companion planting as a somewhat weak element in the total garden scheme. All the good companions to a single plant will not help if it does not get the water it needs, or if it has too much or too little sun to thrive.

*Reviewed by Lucy Warren*

## YOU AND THE MAN IN THE MOON: Almanac User's Complete Instruction Book

Jack R. Pyle and Taylor Reese

Asheboro, N.C., Down Home Press, 1995, 160 pages, 6" x 9", softcover, \$13.95

Are you curious about planting by the moon and could not make heads-or-tails out of an almanac? This is the book for you. It is well written and explains all the initials and symbols—what they mean, how to use them, and how they can be used.

Almanacs, the oldest books printed in our country, are virtually unchanged from the ones printed by Ben Franklin in the 1700s. (Some have been continuously published for over two hundred years.) Almanacs are printed yearly and most are done

by small publishers with distribution concentrated on specific areas. Many of them are free to customers involved in gardening. Larger books, available from book dealers, are printed showing the signs for the three latitudes in the United States on each monthly page. These often have pages that summarize the information—days to plant, prune, harvest, burn, and weed. The almanac information is based on the phases of the moon and the twelve zodiac signs in each period of 28-29 days. If you purchase one, be sure it clearly states that it is a moon-based almanac.

Almanacs are used by amateur astronomers, fishermen, and hunters as well as gardeners. Not only was this a fun book to read but it explains clearly and simply every possible use of any almanac. I was really interested in those best days to weed!

*Reviewed by Barbara S. Jones*

## **GARDENING WITH ROSES: A Practical and Inspirational Guide**

**Patrick Taylor**

Portland, Timber Press, 1995, 250 pages, 205 color photos, 5" x 7½", softcover, \$17.95

This is one of the many books now available from England specializing in encouraging the use of shrub and species roses as landscape plants. The value of the volume as a means of identification through the unusually good photos that accompany the text will be significant. The study of the hardiness maps of Europe and the U.S. at the end of the book will clearly indicate the problem with the information on roses produced in England for those of us living in Southern California.

*Reviewed by Marianne Truby*

## **GARDEN FLOWERS FROM SEED**

**Christopher Lloyd and Graham Rice**

Portland, Timber Press, 1994, 288 pages, 59 color photographs, 6" x 9", softcover, \$19.95

This is a book for those who love to grow flowers and love to read about gardening. The interplay of two highly opinionated gurus of gardening is often humorous and revealing. While they don't always agree about the details, when they are in consensus you know the technique is right and works. Or does it always work in Southern California? Our climate, soil, and available gardening products vary considerably. While we may sow seed in flats for planting out later in the season, we seldom make use of cold frames or concern ourselves regarding frost dates—barring an Alpine address.

My suggestion is to enjoy the skill and expertise of these men, knowledgeable in both gardening and writing, but to keep a copy of the new *Sunset Western Garden Book* beside you as you read, lest you be tempted to grow plants that will lead to certain disappointment because they are unsuited, or you have been led to cultivate them at the wrong time. Another advantage of *Sunset* is the illustrations of individual plants. The authors, and probably many English gardeners are familiar with the correct Latin names, but beginning gardeners may have to stretch their vocabulary and imaginations to recall the species.

With these precautions in mind, I loved this book. It is one to pick up in a free moment to learn about a plant or two, familiar or new. And don't miss the entry on *Cannabis* for a real frolic.

*Reviewed by Lucy Warren*

# COMMUNICATIONS . . .

## **WE WELCOME LETTERS PERTAINING TO GARDENS!**

I love your magazine. I just read it at the library. I'm a landscaper; my mom has gardened in Southern California for sixty years. Please start my membership. Thanks.  
W. F. Frinchaboy Valley Center

*We request comments from readers who feel that we have provided incorrect information. The goal is to give readers the best gardening knowledge available.* The Editor

## **ADDRESSES**

(page 5)

**CHRISTINE S. WOTRUBA**

Perennial Adventure

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La Mesa CA 91941-7103 tel 660-9631

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Unusual plants at a small, home garden nursery

(page 6)

**DUSTY CRAIG**

14945 Conchos Drive

Poway CA 92064-2634

The author's garden is open year round for viewing at all stages of growth. Winter shows the rugosa's at their worst and the heps at their peak. To see the roses in action, the best time of year is April. Call 486-4339 for no-cost private tours.

(page 9)

**Valerie Almond**

Nature's Creation Art Studio

9821 SE Bell Avenue

Portland OR 97222

tel 503/775-8721

"Propagation Secrets for California Native Plants" is available from:

Jeanine De Hart

237 Seeman Drive

Encinitas CA 92024-2839 for \$6.10,

tax and postage included

(page 15)

*Naked Ladies and Other California Exotica*, available for \$5.95, plus \$.50 shipping from:

Jane Field Alexander

3439 Don Juan Drive

Carlsbad CA 92008-3921



("What Shall We Call You..." continued from page 15) fairy slipper, rough skullcap, and Turk's cap most of which might bring recognizable shapes to mind.



Lobster-claw

But because human thought often dwells on food or the lack of it, perhaps the "drumsticks" actually look like parts of a cooked chicken. Probably hunger also inspired jellybean bush, Mormon tea, butter-and-eggs, eggs and bacon, scrambled eggs, hen and chickens. Et cetera. Thoughts of food may turn to thoughts of animals that are often turned into food, but are also longtime human companions—or dangers (snakes, grizzlies, wasps)—to be reckoned with.

Awareness of the animal world is reflected in plant guides replete with such nomenclature as beavertail cactus, crab cactus, hedgehog cactus, foxtail, lizards's-tail, red hot cat's tail, cat's claw, lobster-claw, lamb's ears, pussy-toes, frog belly, pigface, heronbill, elephant's head, and woolly bear. We can read about—or search out—deer browse, fleabane, dog hobble, rabbit foot clover, horse sugar, Texas bull nettle, and cow itch.

Some plants, or parts thereof, to the imaginative mind imitate household items. Who knows how many casual observers have said (until the term stuck), "That cactus looks like it's covered with fishhooks," or "That cactus looks like a pincushion," or "That cactus has darning needles all over it"?

We may even know sandpaper vine, screw bean mesquite, looking-glass plant, cliffdweller's candlestick, Maltese cross, painted cup, creamcups, powderpuff, paintbrush—even bottle washer. What could be better known, and thus reflected in the naming of strange plants, than body parts? Like maidenhair fern, baby blue eyes, sore eye poppy, lady's thumb knotweed, cut finger (plus self-heal), heart's ease, and to sum it up, naked boys and naked lady?

Most of all, it should be noted, those really fascinated by the wonders of nature, the land, the sky, the clouds, the wind, by animals and birds, and the shapes of water, are often blessed with a sense of poetry. So as we scan the indices of botanical journals we rejoice in the

lyricism of such lovely names as shooting star, blazing star, wheel of fire, heart of flame, windflower, and golden smoke.

How delightful it must be to see a patch of glories-of-the-snow, farewell-to-spring, or snow-in-summer. How scary to behold a sorcerer's wand or witch's thimble.

And wouldn't it be a joy (though probably impossible) to group inside a silver ribbon sprigs from chain-of-love, little darling, roving sailor, matrimony vine, honesty, mourning bride, cheer us, brighten the day, and youth and age? Yes, youth and age. All of life in one flower. Fantastic! Even when it turns out to be—only a *Zinnia*.

*Jane Field Alexander is a host at Silverwood, president of Buena Vista Audubon Society, and past president of AAUW. She is a former teacher of English and the author of Naked Ladies and Other California Garden Exotica.*

Illustrations from Dover Publications, Inc. books *Plants and Flowers: 1,761 Illustrations for Artists and Designers* and *Tropical Flowers of the World Coloring Book*.



Giant foxtail



Lizard's-tail



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##### BERNARDO GARDENER'S CLUB

Mrs. Maxine Schimmel

451-3482

3rd Thu - 1:30 pm, Joslyn Senior Center,

Rancho Bernardo

##### BONITA VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Norma Illingworth

479-3478

2nd Wed - 9:30 am, Rohr Park Manor,

Sweetwater Road

##### BRIDGE AND BAY GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Toni Hoppe

435-5669

##### CHULA VISTA GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Mrs. Theodore Felber

427-3184

3rd Thu - 1:00 pm, Senior Center

##### CONVAIR GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Virginia Soderberg

582-7098

1st Wed - 7:00 pm, Home of Members

##### CORONADO FLORAL ASSOCIATION

Pres: Mr. David E. Sigsworth

435-5028

##### CROWN GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Mrs. Robert Sheridan

435-1938

4th Thu - 9:30 am, Coronado Library

##### DOS VALLES GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Sarah Beers

749-2140

2nd Tue - 12:30 pm, Valley Center Com. Hall

##### ESCONDIDO GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Josephine Killingsworth

598-7157

##### FALLBROOK GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Betty Henry

731-0706

##### FLEURS DE LEAGUE GARDEN CLUB

Chrm: Mrs. Angela Talbot

454-9200

2nd Mon - 10:30 am, Home of Members

##### GROSSMONT GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Mrs. Dolores Smith

464-2457

2nd Mon - 9:30 am, 4975 Memorial Drive,

La Mesa

##### LA JOLLA GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Mrs. Francis S. Blankenship

454-4109

3rd Tue - 1:30 pm, L.J. Lutheran Church

##### LAKEVIEW GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Mildred Digenan

443-1529

3rd Mon - 2:00 pm, Lakeside Historical

Church, 9906 Maine Avenue

##### LAS JARDINERAS

Pres: Mrs. Gretchen Allen

222-3643

3rd Mon - 10:30 am, Home of Members

#### MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY

Pres: Mr. Patrick Shields

724-3749

4th Sat - 1:00 pm, MiraCosta Community

College, Horticulture Building #T-700

#### MIRACOSTA HORTICULTURE CLUB

Pres: Renate Ritter

945-1287

3rd Sat - 1:00 pm, MiraCosta Community

College, Horticulture Building #T8

#### PACIFIC BEACH GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Mrs. Dale S. Munda

272-9727

2nd Mon - 1:00 pm, Recreation Center

#### POINT LOMA GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Elaine Marshall

223-8708

2nd Wed - 10:00 am, Westminster Presby

Church

#### POWAY VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Lou Ann Unger

788-1393

#### RANCHO SANTA FE GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Mr. Harold Sexton

756-1554

Hort Chrm: Mrs. Carol Streeter

2nd Tue - 7:30 pm, Garden Club

#### SAN CARLOS GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Dorothy Driscoll

463-6700

4th Tue - 9:30 am, Home of Members

#### SAN DIEGUITO GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Mary Netusil

753-1044

4th Wed - 9:30 am, Quail Bot. Gardens

#### SCRIPPS MESA GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Cindy Drake

271-8933

4th Mon - 6:00 pm, Scripps Ranch Library

#### THE VILLAGE GARDEN CLUB OF LA JOLLA

Pres: Donna Derrick

273-2489

4th Thu - 10:00 am, United Methodist Church,

LJ

#### THE VISTA GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Betty Larson

727-0731

1st Fri - 12:00 pm, Vista Senior Center

#### KEBANA SCHOOLS

##### ICHIYO SCHOOL OF IKEBANA

##### SAN DIEGO CHAPTER

Pres: Hanuko Crawford

660-2046

##### KEBANA INTERNATIONAL CHAPTER 119

Pres: Yoshie Sesma

279-2511

4th Wed - 10:00 am, Casa del Prado

##### IKENOBU CHAPTER OF SAN DIEGO

Pres: Mrs. Charles Oehler

278-5689

##### OHARA SCHOOL OF IKEBANA

##### LA JOLLA CHAPTER

Pres: Connie Davis

672-0128

2nd Tues - 10:00 am

##### OHARA SCHOOL OF IKEBANA

##### SAN DIEGO CHAPTER

Pres: Mrs. Walter Bourland

276-4667

##### SOGETSU SCHOOL OF IKEBANA

##### SAN DIEGO BRANCH

Pres: Mrs. Leroy Lahey

429-6198

#### PLANT SOCIETIES:

##### AFRICAN VIOLETS

##### HEARTLAND AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY

Pres: Pat Akers

579-1975

3rd Tue - 7:00 pm, Wells Park Ctr, El Cajon

##### SAN DIEGO DAYTIME

##### AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY

Pres: Beverly Decker

442-7484

2nd Mon - 1:00 pm, Christ United Methodist

Church

All area codes are 619 unless otherwise noted.

## CLUB AND PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATES (CONTINUED)

<b>BAMBOO</b>			<b>FRUIT</b>			<b>ORGANIC</b>		
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER			CALIFORNIA RARE FRUIT GROWERS			BONITA ORGANIC GARDEN CLUB		
AMERICAN BAMBOO SOCIETY			Pres: Saul Goldstein			Pres: Tony Trelikes		
Sec: George Shor			4th Thu - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado			3rd Tue - 7:00 pm, Bonita Valley Baptist Church		
453-0334								
<b>BEGONIA</b>			<b>FUCHSIA &amp; SHADE PLANTS</b>			<b>PALM</b>		
ALFRED D. ROBINSON CHAPTER			SAN DIEGO FUCHSIA AND			THE INTERNATIONAL PALM SOCIETY		
AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY			SHAPE PLANT SOCIETY			SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER		
Pres: Eileen Clause			Pres: Richard Hubbell			Pres: Phil Bergman		
2nd Tue - 10:30 am, Home of Members			2nd Mon - 7:00 pm, Casa del Prado			Please call for Meeting dates		
459-4706								
<b>PALOMAR CHAPTER</b>			<b>GERANIUM</b>			<b>ROSE</b>		
AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY			SAN DIEGO GERANIUM SOCIETY			EAST COUNTY ROSE SOCIETY		
Pres: Ingaborg Foo			Pres: Cynthia Pardoe			Pres: Rita Applegate		
724-4871			2nd Tue - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado			1st Sun - 2:00 pm, Gardens of Members		
<b>SAN MIGUEL CHAPTER</b>			<b>HEMEROCALLIS</b>			SAN DIEGO ROSE SOCIETY		
AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY			SOUTHWEST HEMEROCALLIS SOCIETY			Pres: Phil Ash		
Pres: Mrs. Eleanor Calkins			Pres: Nancy Webb			3rd Mon - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado		
746-4743			1st Sat - 10:00 am, Quail Gardens					
Last Sat - 10:30 am, Home of Members						<b>TREES</b>		
<b>BONSAI</b>			<b>HERB</b>			PEOPLE FOR TREES		
HON NON BO ASSOCIATION			THE HERB CLUB			Pres: Tom Story		
Pres: Lit Phan			Pres: Judy Dunning			457-2665		
1st Sun every other month (begin Feb)			1st Thu - 7:00 pm, Call for location			<b>WATER GARDEN</b>		
10:30 am, Casa del Prado						SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WATER GARDEN		
SAN DIEGO BONSAI CLUB, INC.			<b>HOYA</b>			SOCIETY		
Pres: Lucinda Grove			SAN DIEGO HOYA GROUP			Contact: Walter Pagels		
2nd Sun - 11:00 am, Casa del Prado			c/o: Harriette Schapiro			582-5408		
669-0542			North County			<b>PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATES:</b>		
<b>BROMELIAD</b>			<b>IRIS</b>			CLASSIC GARDENS		
BROMELIAD STUDY GROUP OF			SAN DIEGO/IMPERIAL COUNTIES			P. O. Box 2711		
BALBOA PARK			IRIS SOCIETY			La Jolla CA 92038-2711		
Pres: Ken Campo			Pres: Hazel E. Carson			THE BOTANICAL GARDEN OF SAN DIEGO		
2nd Tue - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado			2nd Sun - 1:00 pm - Jan/Mar/May			Pres: Rudy Cesena		
SAN DIEGO BROMELIAD SOCIETY			Jun/Aug/Nov - Joslyn Sr Ctr, Escondido			P. O. Box 26729		
Pres: Gayle Ver Steeg						San Diego CA 92196-0729		
488-1661			<b>IVY</b>					
4th Wed - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado			THE AMERICAN IVY SOCIETY					
<b>CACTUS &amp; SUCCULENT</b>			SAN DIEGO CHAPTER					
PALOMAR CACTUS AND SUCCULENT			Pres: Johnny Stellini					
SOCIETY			1st Mon - Casa del Prado					
Pres: Ronald A. Chisum								
753-3651			<b>NATIVE PLANTS</b>					
4th Sat - 12:45 pm, Joslyn Sr Ctr, Escondido			CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY					
SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND			SAN DIEGO CHAPTER					
SUCCULENT SOCIETY			Pres: Bertha McKinley					
Pres: Mr. Joseph Betzler			3rd Tue - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado					
239-0804			<b>LAKE HODGES NATIVE PLANT CLUB</b>					
4th Sat - 1:00 pm, Casa del Prado			Pres: Dorothy Frisbie					
<b>CAMELLIA</b>			4th Mon - 2:00 pm - St. Bart's Episcopal, RB					
SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY			<b>ORCHID</b>					
Pres: Dean Turney			CYMBIDIUM SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.					
299-5418			SAN DIEGO COUNTY CHAPTER					
3rd Wed - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado			Pres: Ardell Marlin					
<b>DAHLIA</b>			3rd Wed - 7:30 pm, Carlsbad Woman's Club					
SAN DIEGO COUNTY DAHLIA SOCIETY			SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY					
Pres: Gerald Lohmann			Pres: Richard Chambers					
279-5135			1st Tue - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado					
4th Tue - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado								
<b>EPHYLLUM</b>								
SAN DIEGO EPHYLLUM SOCIETY								
Pres: Richard G. Latimer, Jr.								
697-4100								
2nd Wed - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado								
<b>FERN</b>								
SAN DIEGO FERN SOCIETY								
Pres: Donald Callard								
792-5662								
3rd Thu - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado								

### AFFILIATES:

Send changes to: Lynn Beyerle, Affiliates  
Editor *California Garden*, Casa del Prado,  
Room 105, Balboa Park, San Diego CA  
92101-1619. Call 232-5762.  
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**("Placing Plants" continued from page 5)**

flops over the 'Basket of Gold' (*Aurinia*) and *Helichrysum petiolare* 'Limelight' sprawls over or crawls under whatever is in its path. The name describes its leaf color, appearing more yellow than lime when in this full sun bed. It is a great plant for weaving the isolate, or awkward plants into a whole design. It seems to diminish the height of the tall phlox and *Rudbeckia nitida* because it is so brilliant beneath these stalky giants. **Recommendation:** Create an optical (spatial) illusion by placing the brightest and lightest plant in the shadow of a larger plant. Usually the darkest area recedes.

About two-thirds of the way back in this 10' wide bed are a few taller plants. One is the four-foot *Salvia* 'Omaha' that has deep purple spikes on the tops of light-to-dark-green centered variegated leaves. Next to it is *Buddleia x pikei* 'Hever', a rather lax shrub to about five feet. The late afternoon shadows fall on this corner of the garden and the salvia's subtle leaf variegation is better appreciated. Streaks of sun play on the buddleia's grayish leaves. That color becomes dull in the sun and its weeping twining character is the weak link in border. If it gets much larger it also will look out of character. Drastic pruning could be the answer. Generally, each plant should show off its best characteristics at least one season of the year. But this wimpy plant would have to bloom spectacularly for six weeks to make any contribution. **Recommendation:** Be ruthless. Take out what doesn't work. Too many different rangey plants will destroy the unity of the design. Keep plants pruned to "correct proportions." One tall accent plant could balance a large flat area but massing of groups is most successful.

Many species of salvias are in this planting. Their range of flower color, size, and adaptability make these plants prime for consideration as features in the border. So far, they are the work horses of the group. Blue and purple blooming species are good for summer-to-winter color. In the walk through this afternoon their flowers are small and discrete. They add detail to the mosaic's pattern. But the variety of plants has become the focus rather than the massing of some to unify "the look." The **recommendation** is to be ruthless and remove some of those that confuse the pattern.

Each season in the garden provides surprise. Rarely is the border in actuality what was envisioned. There are dormant plants in winter as well as in summer. The most exuberant time of the year is, of course, spring. Bulbs long forgotten produce the biggest surprise. Some bloom only in wet spring, others only at dry times. The natural process from youth to maturity is played out in the garden and we think we control the design of the garden. Think again.

In all garden environments there are the plants that "work" and there are those that don't. Dear Gardener, it

is O.K. to have plants that may not eventually fit a situation and don't please the gardener in that place. The appreciation of gardening is not known until one can see the results and make intelligent choices. Tomorrow when I walk through the garden I'll have my pruning shears. □

*Christine S. Wotruba was educated as an artist, but was devoting most of her time to raising four children. She is now back in an art field—designing gardens. She has been the owner of Perennial Adventure nursery for ten years.*

**SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION TOUR  
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This tour has been planned to take advantage of the prime camellia blooming season. With six hundred varieties under a thirty-acre canopy of California oaks, it is a magnificent display. We must arrive at 10:30AM for our scheduled guided tram tour of the gardens and a catered lunch (included). There will be some free time to view the fine arts exhibit in the Hospitality House (changed monthly) and the Japanese Garden. Maybe your interest lies in seeing permanent land and water birds from the bird observation platform or to just meander the paths and see the early bulbs, flowering trees, and shrubs in bloom. At 2:30PM we will board the bus for Nuccio's Nursery, the largest grower of camellias and azaleas in California.

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- ☐ Red Lobster Park/Ride, Grossmont Center, La Mesa 7:00AM  
☐ Fashion Valley SW corner near Penney's 7:30AM  
☐ Hadley's at Palomar Airport Road, Carlsbad 8:00AM

("Sheep Sorrel," continued from page 9)

### SORREL SOUP

Cook uncovered for 45 minutes on low heat:

- 3 cups sorrel leaves
- 2 cups water

Add the following:

- 4 cups milk
- 1 chopped onion
- 2 teaspoons butter
- 3 tablespoons flour

Stir briskly to rid of all the lumps. Cook on low heat for 2 1/2 to 3 hours.

**VITAMIN/MINERAL CONTENT:** Sheep sorrel is high in vitamin C.

**MEDICAL USES:** Historically roots have been boiled for a tea to help colds, placed on sores and abrasions. **BUT** some roots may have dangerously high tannin content, so it is wise not to use them.

**MISCELLANEOUS USES:** Leaves and stalks have been used for a blue-gray colored dye. Sheep sorrel is being used as a French cooking herb. Seeds can be dried and smoked, as a tobacco.

**WILDLIFE USES:** Deer, elk, and many other animals feast on the plant. Many birds eat the seeds and flowers. □

*Valerie Almond is an illustrator who has done pet portraits, wildlife illustrating, signs, logos, business card designing, and other artwork.*



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